

Message Text

PAGE 01 NAIROB 04245 01 OF 02 232115Z

72
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 CU-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /048 W

----- 043070

O 231753Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3018

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

.....AMEMBA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 NAIROBI 4245

FROM MACEARLANE AND LUCIUS

FOLLOWING HAND CARRIED FROM KIGOMA BY CEO RONALD B. JOHNSTON
INTENDED FOR TRANSMISSION BY AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS SMITH HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

1. EVENTS OF NIGHT MAY 19/20 AT GOMBI STREAM NATIONAL PARK SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

2. SOMETIME AFTER 2200 (MAY 19) GROUP OF ARMED MEN (30-40) LANDED FROM WOODEN BOAT AT PARK RANGER STATION NEAR GOMBI RESEARCH CENTER (GRC) CIRCA 30-FOOT LONG BOAT DESCRIBED AS OF TYPE FABRICATED BY LAKE-SIDE BOAT BUILDERS (DOW-SHAPED AND APPEARED TO BE LIKE WATER TAXIS COMMON TO AREA AND POWERED BY OUTBOARD ENGINE). INTRUDERS CAPTURED TWO PARK RANGERS AND FORCED ONE TO LEAD THEM TO GRC.

3. ACCORDING TO ONE AMCIT STUDENT AT GRC, BOAT BEARING ARMED PARTY ARRIVED AT CENTER ABOUT 23:40, CAPTURED NIGHT GUARD AND BEGAN CONFIDENTIAL.

PAGE 02 NAIROB 04245 01 OF 02 232115Z

SEARCHING FOR FOREIGNERS. FIRST CAPTURED WAS EMILE WHO APPARENTLY ONLY STUDENT TO STILL HAVE LIGHTS ON. TAKEN ABOUT SAME TIME WAS FEMALE TANZANIAN PARK WARDEN (SENIOR TANGOV OFFICIAL IN PARK AT TIME) WHO WAS RELEASED UNHARMED WHEN ARMED BAND LEFT.

4. AFTER FORCEFULLY QUESTIONING CAPTIVES NEAR GRC'S COMMON ROOM AND PILLAGING NEARBY SUPPLY AND ADMIN BUILDING, INTRUDERS FANNED OUT UP STEEP AND THICKLY WOODED SLOPE BEHIND GROUP OF ADMIN BUILDINGS LOCATED AT WATER'S EDGE. IN RONCENTRATED SEARCH FOR STUDENTS (BEFORE AND DURING THIS TIME, ARMED MEN WERE HEARD TO YELL OUT "WHERE ARE THE FOREIGNERS" IN SWAHILI) THEY BROKE INTO HUT WHERE STEVE SMITH WAS SLEEPING. WHEN SMITH SCREAMED FOR HELP CARRIE HUNTER, (WHO WAS SLEEPING IN NEARBY HUT) CAME TO SMITH'S AID AND WAS CAPTURED BY THOSE WHO HAD TAKEN SMITH.

5. MEANWHILE MOST SLEEPING STUDENTS, NOW AWAKE BY YELLING AND SCREAMS, CAME OUT OF THEIR HUTS TO INVESTIGATE. WHEN MAGNITUDE OF INCURSION WAS ASCERTAINED, THEY RETREATED BACK INTO THE WOODS AND BUSH TO HIDE. NIGHT MAY 19/20 WAS VERY DARK AND, FOR EXAMPLE, ONE ARMED INTRUDER CAME WITHIN TEN FEET OF ONE STUDENT WITHOUT SEEING HER ALTHOUGH HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY HAD FLASHLIGHTS.

6. DURING LATER PART OF BAND'S STAY AT GRC, THEY BEGAN HURRIEDLY REMOVING ITEMS OF USE TO THEM. CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF FOOD, FUEL AND CLOTHING WAS TAKEN, ALTHOUGH MANY THINGS WERE DROPPED IN THEIR HURRY TO TAKE THEM DOWN TO BOAT. SMITH'S ROOM WAS STRIPPED OF NEARLY EVERYTHING (INCLUDING HIS MATTRESS) BUT ATTACKERS LEFT PASSPORT AND BILLFOLD CONTAINING TANZANIAN SHILLINGS.

7. AFTER BINDING UP THEIR PRISONERS, ARMED BAND LEFT GRC ABOUT 0100 OR ABOUT 80-90 MINUTES AFTER ARRIVAL. AT END OF STAY THEY BROKE INTO GRC BOAT HOUSE AND STOLE CIRCA 13 FOOT BOSTON WHALER WHICH THEY TOWED BEHIND THEIR BOAT. WHALER DESCRIBED AS BEING MADE OF WHITE FIBREGLASS AND POWERED BY OUTBOARD THAT IS DISTINGUISHED BY LONG MAKESHIFT WOODEN HANDLE WHICH IS USED FOR STEERING.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 04245 02 OF 02 232146Z

72
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 CU-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /048 W

----- 043535

O 231753Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3019
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BUKAVU

CONFIDENTIAL /048 W

----- 043535

O 231753Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3019

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 NAIROBI 4245

8. FOLLOWING UPDATES FOREGOING ON BASIS OF MAY 23 HELICOPTER VISIT BY MACFARLANE TO GRS, AND DRAWS ON CONVERSATIONS WITH BRYCESON, GOODALL, PARK RANGER ETHA LOHAI, AND STUDENTS RICHARD BARNES (UK), LARRY GOLDMAN AND HELEN NEELY. NOTE: ALL ARE WELL AND IN REASONABLY GOOD SPIRITS WHILE TWO ARE IN KIGOMA, ANN PIERCE AND PHYLLIS LEE. ALL RPT ALL NON-TANZANIANS ARE EXPECTED IN KIGOMA BY END OF AFTERNOON MAY 23. MOST PLAN TO GO ON TO DAR ES SALAAM TO ASSEMBLE RESEARCH MATERIAL GATHERED AT GRS.

9. GOODALL, BRYCESON, AND ALL OTHERS INTERVIEWED FIRMLY PERSUADED THAT BAND CAME OVER FROM ZAIRE AND IS CONNECTED WITH LONG-SIMMERING INSURGENCY ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF LAKE. EVIDENCE IS PERUSASIVE. MEMBERS OF PARTY ARMED WITH MISCELLANY OF WEAPONS, INCLUDING SOME AUTOMATICs, AND REPORTEDLY DRESSED IN FAIRLY UNIFORM KHAKI OUTFITS; NO INSIGNIA REPORTED. THEY SPOKE FRENCH, SOME SWAHILI AND ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED BANTU LANGUAGE WHICH IS VARIOUSLY SURMISED TO HAVE BEEN LINGALA OR KIBEMBE. ESTIMATES OF SIZE OF BAND RANGE FROM 20-60 (AROUND 30-40 IS MOST COMMONLY GIVEN FIGURE). MEMBERS OF BAND WHEN SPEAKING TO AFRICANS REFERRED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO MULELE AND ONCE, AFTER ASKING WHERE WHITE ("WAZUNGU") WERE LOCATED, SAID THEY HAD COME TO REDEEM THE COUNTRY FROM FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAIROB 04245 02 OF 02 232146Z

EXPLOITATION.

10. PERHAPS MOST STRIKING NEW PIECE OF INFORMATION CAME FROM NIGHT-WATCHMAN FNU VENUS WHO SAID HE WAS ASKED BY ONE OF FIRST RAIDERS TO REACH GRS TO POINT OUT THE LOCAL COMMUNICATION FACILITIES. TOLD THERE WERE NONE, AND ASKED WHAT THEY WERE NEEDED FOR, MEMBER OF BAND SAID HE WANTED IT TO "SEND A MESSAGE TO NYERERE" (KUPIGA SIMU KWA NYERERE). IN THAT CASE, THE LATTER SAID THE MESSAGE WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT BY OTHER MEANS. I QUIZZED NIGHT-WATCHMAN INTENSIVELY IN SWAHILI ON THIS POINT, AND FOUND HIS ACCOUNT PERSUASIVE AND COHERENT.

11. BRYCESON, GOODALL AND STUDENTS ALSO REPORTED THAT A FORMER

GOMBE EMPLOYEE, NASSIBU ALMASI, FIRED THREE YEARS AGO,
HAS REMAINED IN KIGOMA SINCE THEN, REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN IN
CONTACT WITH "MULELISTS" ON ZAIRE SIDE, AND HAS MOVED BACK AND FORTH
BETWEEN KIGOMA AND SOUTH KIVU AREA. NASSIBU, WHOSE BROTHER ALSO
WORKED FOR GRS, WAS RECENTLY DETAINED BY KIGOMA POLICE BUT ESCAPED
ON MAY 16. GOODALL SPECULATED THAT NASIBU AND BROTHER, WHO KNOW
GOMBE AREA INTIMATELY COULD WELL HAVE ASSISTED PARTY IN ORGANIZ-
ING RAID.

12. IT STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER OR HOW SERIOUSLY MEMBERS OF PARTY
SOUGHT GOODALL AS POTENTIAL HOSTAGE. ON ONE HAND, SEVERAL OF AFRICAN
STAFF STATE THAT LEADERS OF BAND REPEATEDLY ASKED WHERE THEY
COULD FIND LEADER OF GRS PROJECT BUT WERE THWARTED BY STAFF
MEMBERS WHO CONSISTENTLY PROFESSED THAT THERE WERE NO OTHER
NON-TANZANIANS BESIDES THOSE FOUR ALREADY SEIZED. ON OTHER HAND
GIVEN EVIDENCE THAT RAID WAS PRE-PLANNED AND QUITE WELL
ORGANIZED OPERATION, IT IS SURPRISING THAT MEMBERS OF PARTY HAD
NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON PRECISE LOCATION WHERE GOODALL COULD BE FOUND.

13. WHETHER OR NOT GOODALL, AS SENIOR AND WORLD-REOWNED
RESEARCHER MARRIED TO HIGH-LEVEL GOT OFFICIAL, WAS INTENDED AS
THE MAIN PRIZE, IT NOW SEEMS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT BAND
WAS SPECIFICALLY SEEKING CAPTURE OF EXPATRIATE STUDENTS. THAT
CONCLUSION REENFORCED BY FACT THAT RAIDERS DEBATED WHETHER
TO TAKE RANGER LOHAI, AND DECIDED AGAINST DOING SO ONLY WHEN
CONVINCED SHE WAS TANZANIAN AND NOT BLACK AMERICAN.

LINDSTROM

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NAIROB04245
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750182-0447
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaat01.tel
Line Count: 191
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

BUKAVU

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006